

IN THIS DAY

IN THE PHILIPPINES.

A Middletown Soldier's Impressions of Luzon.

BERT CAMPBELL WRITES HOME.

Hot Weather, But Not as Bad as Expected—Deserted Rice Fields—A Midnight Scare—The Rainy Season.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Campbell, of Academy avenue, are in receipt of two interesting letters from their son, Albert J. Campbell, who is a member of Co. 21st U. S. Regulars, now in the Philippines. The letters were mailed May 20th and May 30th, but both came on the same ship and reached here Tuesday. They are postmarked "Mail Sta. No. 1, Philippines Islands, Manila."

The 21st Regiment was rushed to Manila with all possible speed. A transport was waiting when the troop reached San Francisco, and the men went on board at once and spent the night there, the ship sailing at 5 o'clock the next morning. The voyage to Manila was made in twenty-one days. The ship encountered one bad storm and nearly everyone on board was seasick, but Private Campbell was lucky enough not to be affected by the pitching and rolling of the vessel. Two soldiers died on the voyage, and their bodies were sewed up in canvas and committed to the sea.

"Albert" Campbell writes as follows of his impressions of the Philippines:

"It is certainly hot out here—just about like some weather we have home on those days when everyone is lying around and finding fault because it is so hot."

"We camped the first night in a park near the city and the next day we marched out in the country and took a camping-ground that the 17th Infantry had left. They went to the front, which is about ten or fifteen miles further in the country."

"We haven't seen any of the enemy yet, but we can hear them firing now and then. We are all ready for them though if any of them show up. We had a little scare, the other night. About 12 o'clock we were awakened by shot and grabbed our rifles and cartridge-belts and ran for the trenches. We soon went back to our tents, for it turned out that the firing hadn't been done by Filipinos but by some of our own men who had been away at some dogs they had seen. We expect to be sent to the front in a week or so."

"The country around here is something wonderful. There are hundreds and hundreds of rice farms, which have been deserted, the natives having fled to the city for protection. The soil seems to be about like that of Orange county but there are no stones."

"About the only trees we see are banana, bananas and coconuts. We can go out and pick bananas right off the trees and they are fine too. The coconuts are not ripe yet. The wild monkeys are a sight. The woods are full of them a few miles from here. Dogs and chickens run wild here too."

"I haven't had a chance to see much of the city of Manila, but they all say it is a fine town. Most of the houses I saw are about the size of the new bakery building on Academy street and they all have the same kind of a roof as that. They have in my windows though."

"The climate here is not as bad as we expected to find it. Of course the rainy season has only just commenced and we may find it bad enough after a while."

In his second letter Bert writes:

"We are still camped in the same place but we have no idea how long we will stay here. We may be here a month and we may have to leave to-morrow. I guess most of the fellows don't like sojourning as well as they expected to."

"The rainy season has not fairly commenced yet. When it does there will be mud a foot deep for two months."

"Some of the boys went out the other day, and brought in about a hundred pineapples, five bunches of bananas and some little chickens. The pineapples were not much good, though, for they were not ripe enough."

"You ought to see the wagons they use for carrying loads. They are two-wheeled carts without boxes of any kind. Instead of horses they use what they call caribous—a kind of ox. But talk about oxen being slow, they aren't in it with those caribous."

"The Chinese are about the only people who do any work worth speaking of here."

"The one thing that I don't like is doing picket duty. My turn comes every third night and we have to be up all night and on the watch for Filipinos. We have only got one out and far he came around in the day time."

"The mosquitoes are something fierce. They come around nights by the hundreds and when a fellow hears them coming he wants to cover up his head and hands or they will plug him."

"To day is about the hottest we have had since we landed. It is almost impossible to stay in the sun for any length of time."

LETTER FROM JAMES MURPHY.

James Murphy, a member of Co. E, 13th U. S. Infantry, has written to a friend in this city, under date of June 4, that he is just recovering from a severe attack of measles. He was taken sick, May 27, and when the transport reached Manila two days later was taken to the General Hospital, where he still remained at the time of writing, though he expected to be out in a few days.

Private Murphy says that there are about 1,500 soldiers in the hospital and every kind of disease from measles to small-pox but the death rate is not large. In the next word, he says, there are 178 wounded natives who are in bad shape, some having lost legs and arms. One poor devil had six bullet holes in his body, but he was in better shape than another who was shot in one eye, the bullet coming out the other.

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